

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
 State Clearinghouse  
 P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
 Sacramento, California 95812-3044

**From:** Department of Toxic Substances Control  
 Brownfields and Environmental Restoration  
 5796 Corporate Avenue  
 Cypress, California 90630

<b>Project Title:</b> Expansion of Williams Elementary School Removal Action Workplan		
<b>Project Address:</b> 1108 Virginia Street, 1612 Lake Street, 1616 Lake Street	<b>City:</b> Bakersfield	<b>County:</b> Kern
<b>Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC:</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Removal Action Workplan	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Permit Issuance	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Re-Issuance
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrective Measure Study/Statement of Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Closure Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Interim Removal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		
<b>Statutory Authority:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

**Project Description:** The project involves approval of a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) which proposes excavation and offsite disposal of 195 cubic yards of soil impacted with lead and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) at Williams Elementary School (School) expansion area (Site) in the City of Bakersfield, California. The purpose of the project is to reduce the threat to human health, safety, and the environment and to provide a permanent solution that reduces the toxicity, mobility, and volume of impacted soil. Once completed, portions of the Site will be covered by Williams Elementary School buildings or hardscape.

**Background:** As part of the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD), expansion of the Williams Elementary School consists of three residential properties located on both sides of an existing School parking lot. Structures were removed from the properties in mid-2019. The Site has been either vacant land or residential properties from at least the 1930s to present. Operations on the Site prior to 1930 are unknown. The three properties are bordered by the School to the north, residential uses to the east and west, and by a church and water culvert to the south.

**Project Activities:** DTSC determined a removal action is necessary based on the findings of the Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) conducted for the Site in August and September 2019. The SSI concluded that limited areas of the Site's soil is contaminated with lead and OCPs, recommended removing the top 1-foot to 1-½ feet in most of the impacted areas and up to 3 feet in certain limited areas, and recommended backfilling the excavated areas with clean import soil. The estimated volume of OCPs and lead impacted soil proposed for removal is approximately 195 cubic yards. The following activities would be conducted to implement this removal action:

- Excavate in the areas that have elevated concentrations of OCPs and lead in the soil,
- Confirm soil sampling in the excavation areas to ensure cleanup goals are met,
- Stockpile excavated soil temporarily on-site or place directly into end dump trucks or bins,
- Determine the appropriate waste disposal facility once the analytical results are received and a waste profile application will be submitted to the chosen facility for approval, and
- Backfill all excavated areas with clean fill material from an offsite source which will be appropriately tested as required by the DTSC's Advisory on Import Fill Material.

Based on the analytical results gathered during a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) and the SSI, the soil generated from the Site may need to be handled, transported and disposed of as non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste. If any material is determined to be hazardous (California hazardous or RCRA hazardous) this material will be hauled off-site to a permitted facility that can accept that waste stream under a hazardous waste manifest. Final determination of the landfill used for disposal will be based on approval from the landfill of the waste streams and cost effectiveness of that facility. Once the disposal facility is selected, copies of waste profile reports used to secure disposal permission from the landfill will be provided to DTSC. In addition, compliance with the land disposal restrictions and land ban requirements for hazardous wastes will be documented and provided to DTSC once it is determined which disposal facility will be used.

Air monitoring will be performed during all Site activities at the Site in which contaminated, or potentially contaminated, materials are being disturbed or handled. Air monitoring samples will be collected over an 8 to 10 hour period each day that excavation activities are conducted. The air-monitoring professional will check the equipment every 15 minutes during operation. Liberation of dust during the removal operations will be minimized as necessary with the use of water as a dust suppressant. In addition, onsite materials and equipment will be covered with protective plastic sheeting and cleaned after removal activities to prevent any potential exposure of contaminants to the surrounding area. Similarly, adjacent paved areas will be covered with plastic sheeting and pressure washed following the removal activities, if warranted.

Cleanup activities are anticipated to take 4 days to complete. Approximately 13 truck trips will be required for soil transportation offsite and another 16 truck trips for import of clean soil. Removal action activities will comply with the City of Bakersfield noise ordinance limitations in such all work will be conducted during between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If noise concerns do develop adjacent to residential areas, then temporary sound proofing may be installed along the fence line to reduce noise levels.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Bakersfield City School District

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]  
 Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec. 15269(a)]  
 Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec. 15269(b)(c)]  
 Categorical Exemption: [CCR Title 14, Sec. 15330]  
 Statutory Exemptions: [State Code Section Number]  
 Common Sense Exemption [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

**Exemption Title:** Continuation of activities to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

1. The project is a minor cleanup action to be taken to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste and substance.
2. The project is a removal action costing \$1 million or less.
3. The project will not be located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code § 65962.5 (<http://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>)
4. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
5. The project will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
6. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
7. The project will not require onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit.
8. The project will not require the relocation of residences or businesses.
9. The project will not involve the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code section 25123.6.
10. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type on the same place, over time, if there are any, will not be significant.
11. The project will be consistent with applicable State and local environmental permitting requirements.

Evidence to support the above reasons is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
 Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program  
 5796 Corporate Avenue  
 Cypress, California 90630

DTSC EnviroStor website: [[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=60002811](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60002811)]

Johnson P. Abraham

Environmental Scientist

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Project Manager	Title	Phone No.
		6-30-20
Branch Chief's Signature		Date
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Branch Chief	Title	Phone No.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY**

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: